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THE DAILY TEXAN

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CAMPUS

Right-leaning voter eschews Trump

By Cassi Pollock
@cassi_pollock

Editor's note: This is the third profile of a series The Daily Texan is publishing during the 2016 election season, featuring a wide variety of student political perspectives. Beginning with

the first day of early voting, Oct. 24, the series will run up until Election Day, Nov. 8.

Allison Peregory, a consistently conservative voter who cast her ballot for Mitt Romney in 2012, is foregoing her vote for this year's Republican

presidential nominee. Peregory, a government senior and communications director for the UT chapter of Young Conservatives of Texas, said Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton — the two main party presidential nominees this year — lack “the moral minimum” to be

commander-in-chief. “Trump is kind of like a label on the Republican Party that confirms all the nasty stereotypes Republicans have that I don't subscribe to,” Peregory said, adding that Trump failed to champion the values she has. “It's easy for the

opposition to label Trump as a sexist, and I really don't see the Republican Party as a sexist organization.” Clinton, Peregory said, isn't a viable option for her either. “I'm not voting for Clin-

RIGHT page 3

STATE

McCaul has harsh words for Cruz in Tribune talk

By Sarah Philips
@sarahphilips23

United States Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Austin, criticized Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, for his lack of emphasis on the interests of Texas, while also avoiding confirming a possible challenge for Cruz's seat during a conversation with Texas Tribune CEO Evan Smith at The Austin Club Tuesday morning. McCaul represents the tenth district of Texas, which stretches from Travis County to Katy, Texas.

McCaul currently serves as the chairman of the House Committee on National Security and has advised Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on issues of national security during the 2016 election. During his interview with Smith, McCaul offered up criticisms of Cruz's actions as a Texas senator.

“I think he's spent a lot of time since day one running for president,” McCaul said. “I think [the state] deserve somebody in the Senate

MCCAUL page 2

CAMPUS

Anime convention brings nerds together

By Carlynn Hickenbotham
@hcarlynn

Asian American Culture, a Campus Events + Entertainment committee, hosted its first anime and comic book convention hybrid in the Tuesday night SAC second floor ballroom in order to offer anime lovers a chance to meet like-minded individuals on campus.

A free event open to all students, Attack on Comic Con featured Asian snacks, a photo booth and a cosplay contest, with a Pikachu onesie going to the first place winner.

Business freshman Van-Anh Van-Dinh, the event coordinator for the student-run event, said she wanted to provide a space for students interested in these topics to meet and mingle. The name of the event is a play on the popular anime series “Attack on Titan.”

“I feel like a lot of people don't get the opportunity

to express their interests in anime or comics or sci-fi, and this is a way for them to just be themselves and to cosplay,” Van-Dinh said.

Landscape architecture graduate student Kevin Jeffery said he is new to Texas and was grateful for this event because he wanted to meet other anime fans.

“I am relatively new to the Austin area, but I've been going to cons in the D.C. Northeastern area for a really long time,” Jeffery said. “I really wanted to get involved in a local cosplay community, and I figured this would be a good opportunity to learn about what's going on in Texas.”

Several members of AAC said they felt there is not enough open acceptance of anime and other similar interests for students. Jeffery said he did not talk about his cosplay habits with his friends. “It's kind of a dirty little



Jenan Taha | Daily Texan Staff

Cosplayers at Attack on Comic Con gathered on stage as judges chose the winner of the costume contest. The event was held to bring together anime lovers from around campus.

secret,” Jeffery said. “But when I get [to the convention], I feel like these are my people, so I'm able to be more open.” Anthony Israel, a

recent UT graduate, said more anime conventions should happen on college campuses.

Israel said it would give students who have left all of

their friends in high school an opportunity to meet other nerds.

“It's a good way for

CON page 2

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student government moves forward with two proposals

Students seek formal SG support for BLM

By Lisa Dreher
@thedailytexan

Student Government heard the first reading of a proposed resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and black students at UT Thursday night.

“The bill itself is really affirmation from student government and from the legislative body of this university to say that we support black students and we support the struggles they're going through on campus, as well as in the United States of America,” said Jasmine Barnes, director of operations for Students for Equity and Diversity, who wrote the resolution.

Those supporting the resolution said it would show the governing body's solidarity with black students. Its proponents ranged from student government legislative members to members of student groups advocating for social

justice and representation. Cameron Maxwell, a member of the Black Students Alliance, said students should educate themselves on the Black Lives Matter movement's peaceful message.

“Speaking on behalf of myself, a black man, it is a very powerful gesture if you could all take a look at this, read through it and at the very least learn about the Black Lives Matter movement,” Maxwell, a finance junior, said. “I am from Dallas, and I know what happened there really disconnected people from the Black Lives Matter movement.”

Alejandrina Guzman, director of Latin Community Affairs for the UT Multicultural Engagement Center, said the movement is motivated by a need to be treated equally and fairly by both people and powerful institutions.

“It's a human rights issue,” Guzman said. “At the same

BLM page 2



Economics and government junior David Bemporad answered questions concerning A.R. 11, a resolution in support of a city mobility bond, at the Student Government meeting Tuesday. The bond aims to make the Guadalupe and East Riverside streets safer which both experience heavy student traffic.

Chase Karacostas
Daily Texan Staff

SG endorses city mobility bond

By Paul Cobler
@paulcobler

Student Government passed AR 11 on Tuesday, endorsing Austin's Proposition 1 and calling on UT students to vote in favor of

the mobility bond during the election.

The \$720 million bond allocates funds toward improving designed mobility corridors and roads throughout the city.

“There are a lot of little

improvements that need to happen, and the only way to do them is through this bond,” said David Bemporad, co-director of city relations for SG. “For us, it's a huge improvement for life around

campus. This is something that majorly affects students at the city level, and as student body representatives, Student Government needs to make sure

PROP 1 page 2

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 86 Low 64

COLT 45 AND 2 ZIG ZAGS

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



History junior Kate Wilcox relaxes near the Barbara Jordan statue on Monday night.

Juan Figueroa | Daily Texan Staff

CON

continues from page 1

people to find other people like them, especially on college campuses,” Israel said. “I think it’s a pretty good thing to do, so students can start networking and start building a support base. In high school, you have friends you’ve made throughout the years, but then you get out of high school and you need to find friends, and I think it’s small college conventions like this that will help you do that.”



PROP 1

continues from page 1

it happens.”

The assembly passed the resolution, co-written by Bemporad, by a vote of 22–2, with three representatives abstaining from the vote.

The bond, if passed by voters, would include improvements on Guadalupe Street and East Riverside Drive, both near UT student housing.

“Both Guad and Riverside have heavy student populations ... that we travel on a lot,” Bemporad said. “We really do need to make sure they get improved. Right now both the areas are unsafe, not well-lit and have bus stops that are not

well-allocated.”

According to the city’s website, funds for the bond will be raised through an increase in the city property tax, something biology freshman Mbayi Aben said may prevent her for voting in favor of it.

“I stay on campus, so I don’t own property so I don’t have to pay taxes,” Aben said. “I am pretty sure though, the people who do are going to complain about it because it’s going to be expensive. There are a lot of things that need to be done in Austin, and I don’t think roads are first in line for that money.”

Despite concerns of cost, Bemporad said the bond would make campus safer for students, something he thinks outweighs any

other anxieties.

“Student safety has been a primary concern for this administration,” Bemporad said. “There are root issues — poorly lit bus stops, unpaved sidewalks, poorly lit sidewalks, unsafe bike lanes — that are inherently unsafe and have not been addressed yet by the city. We are lucky enough that this bond addresses those things, and overall this helps student safety via bus, bike and lighting.”

SG president Kevin Helgren said he thinks the endorsement reflects the general opinion of the student body and said it’s important for SG to formally voice that opinion.

“We’re never going to get it 100 percent right,” Helgren said. “But I think

that all of the representatives do an excellent job of gauging feedback from their council. So 99 percent of the time any time Student Government passes a resolution, it is indeed reflective of student opinions.”

In his speech to the assembly, Bemporad encouraged SG to help Austin progress as a city through endorsing the bond.

“This is the next step towards making Austin the next great American metropolis,” Bemporad said. “If we don’t take this next step, we will not have the full ability that Austin has. So I encourage you to take this next step. Move forward, we can no longer afford to stand still.”



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

United States Rep. Michael McCaul discusses issues related to the election at the Austin Club on Tuesday morning.

MCCAUL

continues from page 1

who is going to be representing the interests of the state of Texas.”

McCaul did not confirm a challenge to Cruz’s seat in the U.S. Senate, but complimented former senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and current US Sen. John Cornyn.

Smith said a Republican operative in Austin said they were being recruited for a McCaul campaign, but McCaul said he did not initiate any efforts to build a campaign.

“This is not of my making,” McCaul said. “I have speculation of where it’s coming from. There has been a lot of support out there.”

McCaul also answered questions about his role in the Trump campaign and the extent to which he supports the nominee.

“Would he have to kill

somebody in front of you for you not to endorse him?” Smith asked after listing some of Trump’s most controversial campaign moments, including his Twitter war with the Khan family after the Democratic National Convention, the multiple groping allegations that have surfaced in the last few weeks and a 2005 video that displays Trump using vulgar language in reference to a woman.

McCaul said he did not support everything Trump has said or done in the campaign.

“I’m not going to be associated with everything that comes out of his mouth,” McCaul said. “I have four daughters, it’s not the language I think is appropriate.”

McCaul said he agrees with Trump’s tax policy, which is important to him.

McCaul said advising the Republican nominee on foreign policy and

national security was an “interesting experience” and said he does believe the Russians had something to do with the hacking of the Democratic National Committee.

McCaul said Trump decided there’s no proof of interference from Russia, which McCaul said could result from a lack of experience and briefings.

“I have briefed [Trump] on this,” McCaul said. “This is a nation-state attack to undermine the integrity of our democratic process. I think he has in his mind there’s no proof.”

McCaul is running for reelection in his district against Democrat Tawana Cadien and Libertarian Bill Kelsey in a race that is considered safe for McCaul. After reelection, McCaul is considering a spot in the presidential administration or chairing the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

BLM

continues from page 1

time, for me being Latina, I just want to stand in solidarity, and most of you will hopefully.”

SG also passed legislation allowing members to begin reshaping the Improve the University Challenge.

The challenge is a case competition where teams of students compete to resolve a student issue using their expertise and skills. The challenge then selects the best team’s idea which solves these specific student issues, which are voiced through Students Speak campaign, which was created by last year’s University-wide representatives. University-wide representative Vignesh Ramdas, a marketing and economics junior, said the challenge is overseen by an outside corporate sponsor, which comes to the University and proposes an idea to solve these issues.

Ramdas said the program should not partner with an outside corporation, but rather the University’s own offices and departments.

Ramdas said University offices and departments would provide better insight into student’s problems and how to resolve them.

“We’re hoping by having the University as the partner, [we’ll] have some strong possibilities [for] implementation,” Ramdas said. “A student’s idea is actually going to be implemented in scale to a University-wide level.”

SG will vote on the proposed resolution regarding support for the Black Lives Matter movement at its meeting next Thursday.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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RESEARCH

Latino researchers receive \$7.6 million in grants

By Marina Vences
@Marina_vences

The Latino Research Initiative in the Center for Mexican American Studies recently received three grants totaling \$7.6 million to be used solely for health research.

The donation came from the National Institute of Nursing Research, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. The funds have been split between three main research teams: Frio, Miranos and Entre Familia, which are geared toward reducing health problems in

Latino communities.

LRI Director Deborah Parra-Medina came to Austin from the UT Medical Health Science Center in San Antonio this past August, after she was invited to spearhead the initiative. Parra-Medina said the initiative aims to use the research project to positively affect the greater Latino population in the United States.

“We want to develop a community of scholars and community experts that will create new knowledge about the growing Latino community in Texas and the United States,” Medina said. “We want to share the information so that it has impact

on public policy and community action that would improve the lives of the Latino community.”

John Morán González, director of the Center for Mexican American Studies, said in an email the initiative is important when considering the size of the Latin American population in the United States.

“The issues of education, health care, and the economy, as these specifically affect Latinos, will increasingly be those that affect all Texans,” González said in an email. “By 2050, Latinos will be the single largest demographic in the state, a situation already found in public school enrollments.”

Minerva Alderete, Mexican American Studies junior, said she thinks the initiative’s research is important because health is a growing issue among Hispanics.

“The research needs to be done because it [affects] so many people, and because Hispanic Americans are the greatest growing population in the U.S., the policy that is directed toward them will affect everyone,” Alderete said.

As the initiative grows, González said he wants the center to be a major source of research about Latino Americans.

“The LRI adds greatly to the Center’s ability to be



Courtesy of Latino Research Initiative Group

The Latino Research Initiative, housed in UT’s Center for Mexican-American Studies, recieved three grants of \$7.6 million.

responsive to the needs of decision makers and stakeholders, whether the Legislature, business, community, etc.,” González said in an email. “In the next few years, the LRI will be the premier one-stop resource for the latest research about Texas Latino population.”

CAMPUS



Angel Ulloa | Daily Texan Staff

Economics and government junior David Bemporad answered questions concerning A.R. 11, a resolution in support of a city mobility bond, at the Student Government meeting Tuesday.

Cultural historian breaks down Grace Jones, black performance

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

Cultural historian Uri McMillan explored the importance of black female artists by including Jamaican supermodel, singer and actress Grace Jones in a talk.

McMillan spoke Tuesday as part of the Performing Blackness Series, a set of lectures launched by the UT Warfield Center for new artists to present their work.

McMillan read from one of his papers, in which he cited afro-punk artist Grace Jones to demonstrate the power of black female performance art.

McMillan said Jones took art and aesthetics to a different level. From her photo shoots with Andy Warhol to her distinct androgynous appearance, McMillan said Jones shattered traditional race and gender stereotypes throughout the 1970s and 1980s during the peak of her modeling and music careers.

Grace Sparapani, art history graduate student, said she thinks Jones paved the way for many present-day female artists, such as

Beyoncé and Rihanna.

“She’s always just been someone who to me was a performer,” Sparapani said. “Thinking about her as a black woman at the time she was doing that is so incredible and so transgressive.”

Candice Lyons, women’s and gender studies graduate student, said this is the first time she has ever been to a lecture centered around Grace Jones.

“This project has really interesting implications for how we view black women and especially black women who perform alterity,” Lyons said.

Interestingly, Jones was often seen as the “white man’s puppet” because of her relationships with white men and collaborations with white gay photographers, McMillan said.

“With black women singers, there’s a very particular characterization, but we need to reframe the way we look at objectification,” McMillian said. “[Jones touches on] what it means to take pleasure in your own objectification.”

McMillan said Beyoncé, unlike Jones, tends to dominate conversa-

“

It doesn’t mean you have to not talk about Beyoncé, but what if we actually put Beyoncé in conversations with someone like Grace Jones.

—Uri McMillan, Cultural historian

tions on gender and African-American Studies with his undergraduate students at UCLA.

“It doesn’t mean you have to not talk about Beyoncé, but what if we actually put Beyoncé in conversations with someone like Grace Jones,” McMillan said. “It’s always too easy to focus on one person and we don’t focus on the genealogy of other people.”

McMillan said Jones should be perceived as an artist rather than strictly a performer.

“[It’s about] having a vision that is actually your own,” McMillan said.

RIGHT

continues from page 1

Clinton,” Peregory said. “I wouldn’t ever be able to vote for her.”

The thought process behind Peregory’s solution — completely separate from the organization she represents — is to write in a candidate for president.

“It’s going to be a game day decision, to be totally honest,” Peregory said, adding that former CIA officer Evan McMullin, an independent candidate in the race for the White House, was a possible option.

And while Peregory won’t vote for Trump or Clinton, she plans to continue what she started in 2012 by voting for Republicans down the ballot.



Alex Dolan | Daily Texan Staff

Government senior Allison Peregory is the communications director for the UT chapter of Young Conservatives of Texas. Despite her consistently conservative voting record, she refuses to vote for Donald Trump this election.

“Even though it’s more of a reality TV show to me, [this election] has drawn some attention,” Peregory said, adding that results on Election Day, Nov. 8, will be closer

than most argue it will be. “I want to tell my kids 20 years from now that I voted for someone I believed in and that I didn’t just go along with party politics.”

UNIVERSITY

\$265,000 ULN grant supports leadership, improves resources

By Hannah Daniel
@hannnahdaniel

The Sid W. Richardson Foundation awarded a \$265,000 grant to the University Leadership Network last week in accordance with the late Richardson’s mission to serve the people of Texas.

ULN is an incentive-based scholarship program with a focus on leadership and professional development, which serves students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. ULN Director Jennifer Smith said the program began in the fall of 2013 as an initiative to improve the University’s four-year graduation rates.

“It’s a huge goal for [UT] as an institution, and ULN is one mechanism to help get the University closer to that goal,” Smith said. “Our secondary purpose is that [students] are going to graduate as prepared leaders and young professionals who have a wealth of

experiential learning opportunities that have prepared them for the next steps after they leave UT Austin.”

Each year, 500 students are selected from the incoming freshman class to join the program, so currently about 2,000 UT students benefit from ULN’s services.

Biochemistry senior Juan Simon Michel said he has learned valuable skills and gained experiences such as an internship and the opportunity to study abroad through ULN.

“I’ve been able to learn a lot through those experiential learning tracks that ULN offers,” Michel said. “It’s the biggest support system that has been offered to me at UT ... it’s the reason why I’m here.”

In addition to up to \$20,000 in scholarships, ULN students receive access to resources that promote professional and leadership development throughout their four years at the University. These skills are

developed through opportunities such as weekly speaker events, internship opportunities, study abroad programs and research.

Pete Geren, Sid W. Richardson Foundation president and CEO, said the low numbers of Texas youth who pursue post-secondary education are troubling.

“The ULN initiative is one of the most promising initiatives underway to try to reverse that trend,” Geren said. “ULN goes right at the heart of one of the biggest challenges we face as a state, and that’s to ensure that our young people are able to have life-supporting and sustaining jobs when they move into their adult years.”

About 80 percent of the first ULN cohort are enrolled this fall in their senior year at the University. Considering that only 33 percent of these students were predicted to graduate in four years, Geren said the increase is a success.

**METRO**

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COLUMN

Costumes can't come at expense of others

By Mehraz Rahman
Daily Texan Columnist
@MehrarzR

Halloween is a holiday that is celebrated with much fervor, especially among college students. At The University of Texas, one trend is to dress up in “sexy” or pop culture-inspired costumes. Often, in their efforts to have the most clever or relevant costumes, people forget to be sensitive towards the feelings of others.

The student union at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario has come up with a comprehensive list of inappropriate costumes which will be banned from university-affiliated Halloween parties. In addition to the obvious swastika and Confederate flag ban, the list includes but is not limited to costumes that incorporate “sacred and ceremonial dress,” make fun of suicide or trivialize sexual assault.

This year, when deciding what to wear for Halloween (or ever), things you should definitely not wear include costumes that...

Reduce traditional, cultural, or religious garb into a joke or stereotype

Costumes that use traditional outfits, especially those of a marginalized group that you're not a part of, is likely to be offensive. This includes traditional Indian costumes and bindis, Native American costumes (yes, even if you just want to be Disney's Pocahontas), Day of the Dead inspired makeup looks, sombreros, geisha costumes and Arabic thobes. Coming up with a “sexy” or convenient costume is no excuse for cultural appropriation.

Reduce characteristics of people of other groups to a joke or stereotype

If your costume involves blackface, and you're still questioning whether or not it is okay: it's not. When non-African American people put on blackface, they are ignoring the history of institutionalized slavery and racism that minstrelsy once represented.

Make fun of the death of public figures

If you'd like to commemorate the life of a public figure you admire, there's nothing wrong with that. However, dressing up as a bloodstained Trayvon Martin, Harambe, Cecil the Lion or an assassinated president is simply distasteful.

Make fun of serious issues such as suicide, depression and other disabilities

Mental and physical disabilities are already stigmatized in society. Because of this, making fun of public figures, such as Robin Williams, who committed suicide, is in bad taste.

Unsurprisingly, corporations often capitalize on the insecurities of their consumers, especially women. So, when a costume shop introduced a costume featuring a thin model in a tight skeleton dress called “Anna Rexia,” it trivialized the serious nature of eating disorders. In addition, dressing up as TV characters who have physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy sufferer Walter White Jr. from the popular show Breaking Bad, isn't acceptable.

Perpetuate of rape culture or domestic abuse

Costumes that are newsworthy issues tend to be popular. When these costumes

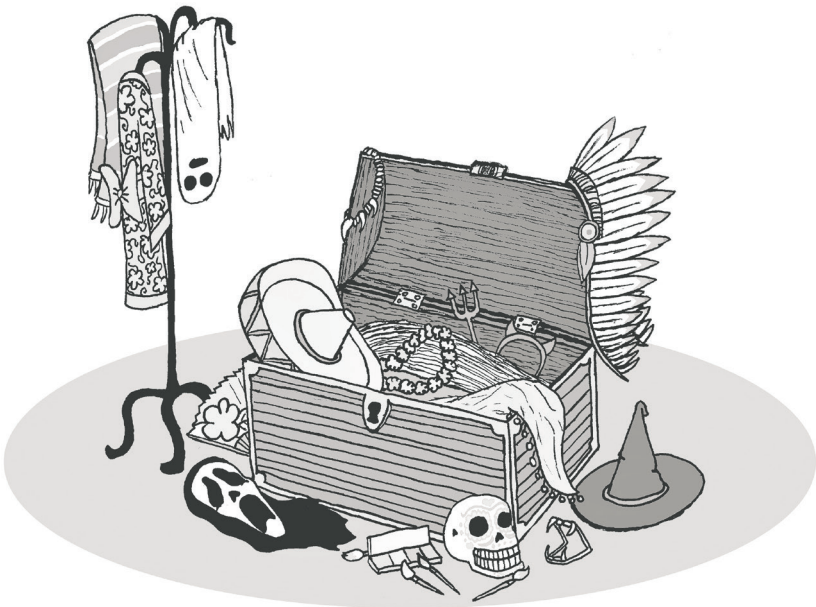


Illustration by Lindsay Rojas | Daily Texan file

make light of serious issues such as sexual assault, they perpetuate rape culture. Naturally, dressing up as Bill Cosby or Jerry Sandusky is off-limits. If the costume alludes to the sexual assaults, it may be triggering to survivors.

This Halloween, a popular couples' costume will be Harley Quinn and The Joker from DC's movie adaptation of Suicide Squad. While the movie romanticized the couple, their relationship was actually abusive, with him attempting to kill her multiple times. Reducing this complex relationship to a costume diminishes the domestic abuse

that many people have to deal with and overcome, and may even be triggering to some.

With all of this said, it is understandable that choosing a politically correct Halloween costume might be frustrating. My intention is not to make you feel guilty for wanting to have a fun Halloween experience, but to remind you that it's important to be inclusive and considerate. As Brock University's Student Justice Center put it, “You wear that costume for one night, but others wear that stigma for life.”

Rahman is a business and Plan II sophomore from Austin.

COLUMN

Students must carve out time for healthy self-care

By Janhavi Nemawarkar
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@Janhavin97

We're entering the most stressful part of the semester: every week is midterm week, registration is starting up and we're finally approaching the culmination of this historic and absolutely terrifying election season.

Millennials have it so easy.

But despite whatever hellish combination of classes, jobs, internships and extracurricular activities you find yourself occupied with this semester, it's important that we don't forget the importance of self-care.

With the dozens of activities that occupy our time as students, and the insidious belief that each one is indispensable for our future, it's easy to get locked into a mindset in which we begin to believe our worth is defined by how well we're doing. We begin to devalue our own health in an attempt to become the most successful, the most giving versions of ourselves. But self-care isn't an indulgence — rather, it is an essential aspect of maintaining our physical and mental health. And only by sustaining our health can we be the supportive friends and dedicated citizens we want to be.

Self-care encompasses the actions we might overlook on a daily basis in our dogged

pursuit of our goals — it is the steps we take to maintain and strengthen our emotional and physical well-being. That means going for a morning run, giving yourself a little time just to read or trying out breathing exercises to help alleviate the inevitable stress, disappointment and sadness that comes with being a person in the world just trying to live.

It is more integral to our health than simply enabling us to be the most productive version of ourselves. While a much talked about incentive of maintaining our mental health is its ability to bolster workplace performance or prevent burnout, our emotional well-being should be more valuable than that. Taking care of our well-being shouldn't have to feel antithetical to our pursuit of success. We can be whole without producing all the time.

Practicing self-care does not mean enabling bad habits that only feel good in the moment — watching Netflix when you should really be starting on a paper due the next day will always be a bad idea. It doesn't mean celebrating the financially irresponsible material excesses of a “treat yourself” mentality or taking a break from doing work to peruse social media. Rather, self-care means checking in on yourself: assessing your stress levels, reflecting on the health of your relationships

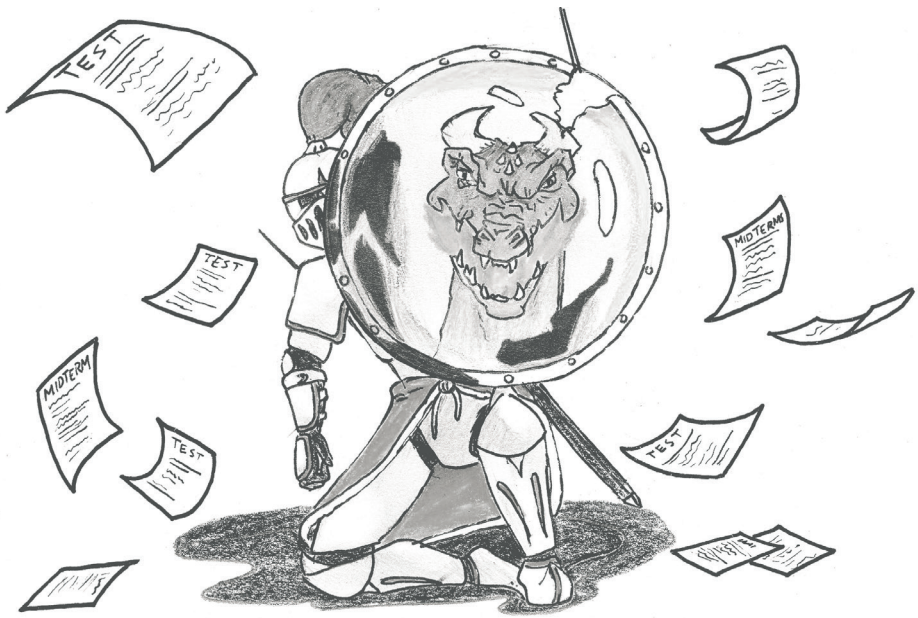


Illustration by Seth Maldonado | Daily Texan Staff

and making sure you've eaten.

Setting simple goals is important; eating regular meals, exercising and maintaining a healthy sleep schedule are all basic needs that can be overlooked in times of stress. Other suggested methods to maintain mental well-being include practicing meditation or keeping a

journal. Go outside, maybe. Look at a tree. But above all, give yourself time to breathe.

We're going to make it through this semester — we're almost there. We just need to make sure we're being kind to ourselves.

Nemawarkar is a Plan II sophomore from Ausin.

COLUMN

Early voting remains essential to voter turnout

By Emma Berdanier
Daily Texan Columnist
@eberdanier

Everything's bigger in Texas, it seems, except voter turnout. In the 2012 general election Texas only saw a 50.1 percent voter turnout, ranking it 48th among the nation. This isn't unprecedented, as Texas has never ranked high among the states in voter turnout. Though in this election over 90 percent of eligible voters in Travis County are registered, adding to the 15 million registered Texan voters, these numbers don't guarantee that the state will have a high turnout.

“There's no point in having all of us out there [registering voters] if after people are registered they don't go out there and vote,” Bailey Schumm, the director of Hook the Vote, said.

The only way to ensure that as many registered voters as possible become active voters is if they vote early. Early voting began Monday and continues through Nov. 4. After the 5th Circuit ordered a temporary fix to voter ID laws in Texas, early voting is easier than ever this year. All a voter needs to bring with them to verify their identity is a form of Texas ID (i.e. a driver's license, or a US passport). If they can't provide that, then they must sign a sworn affidavit and bring a current utility bill or another proof of residency. This makes it much

“
The only way to ensure that as many registered voters as possible become active voters is if they vote early.

easier for an out-of-state student who has yet to obtain a Texas driver's license to vote, as they cannot present an out of state license at the polls.

Early voting is a way for students to get voting out of the way and to incorporate it with their class schedule rather than getting stuck at seemingly endless lines at the FAC on Election Day.

Last year on Election Day and on the three days leading up to Election Day the lines in the FAC were winding around the building, back through the Union,” Schumm said.

Voting early is the only sure way to give students enough time to cast their ballots during breaks between classes because they have more flexibility in terms of when they can vote. During early voting, residents can vote at any early voting location within their county. On Election Day, residents can only cast their ballot at the single voting precinct assigned to them, meaning many students would lose the opportunity to vote on campus at the FAC.

Between now and Nov. 4, Hook the Vote and



Chase Karacostas | Daily Texan Staff

Students line up for early voting at the Flawn Academic Center on October 24th. UT students make up a significant number of the 90 percent of eligible voters in Travis county.

other campus organizations will be reminding students to vote early through social media posts. Unlike voter registration, where they can walk students through the process of filling out a form, volunteers can't walk students through the voting line and ensure they vote.

Instead students must vote early on their own to ensure that Texas has a high voter turnout that accurately reflects the 15 million eligible voters in the state.

Berdanier is a philosophy junior from Boulder, Colorado.

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ART

#iGotSole encourages dance through video series

By Lisette Oler
@Lisette Oler

The smooth chords of “Walah” echo through the Black Box Theater as dancers dressed in dark colors strike their first pose. Their slow, deliberate sequence is interrupted by the abrupt, sweeping movement of their arms and legs.

#iGotSole, a hip-hop dance group, was founded by alumnus Jonathon “J.T.” Thomas in 2012 during his time at UT. The company creates choreography videos to inspire others to be active in the visual and performing arts. In 2014, Thomas graduated and moved to San Antonio, so the group only meets when he can come to town. In the future, Thomas hopes to bring his company with him wherever he goes.

Thomas has had a passion for dance since he could walk. To him, dance is a way to express a particular sound in a physical way.

“I love to tell the art of a story with body movements,” Thomas said. “I want to be

able to physically decipher and depict what sound looks like rather than what sound sounds like.”

This love of dance and sound culminated in high school when Thomas became interested in teaching and choreography. He began planning to open his own dance company called #iGotSole, based off an adage from his aunt and inspiration from his community in Greenspoint, Texas.

“My aunt told me, ‘You can’t get anywhere without your feet — the soles of your feet move forward,’” Thomas said. “That’s one area where ‘Sole’ stems from. Another area is the African-American culture. A lot of things we do in life [come] from the soul just because anything that comes from the soul or from the heart is pure and truthful and it’s intentional.”

Though he didn’t know what would come of the idea, he started working on the concept in 2012. The group’s first video, a trailer for the #iGotSole Movement, was made with a few of his fraternity

brothers, and immediately took off, reaching 1,407 views on YouTube.

“When we started our first project, it spread like wildfire on the internet,” Thomas said. “People were demanding to come to our next class.”

Journalism and public relations junior Yewande Isola found the group on Facebook in 2014 and decided to join because of the atmosphere Thomas created.

“One thing that kept me going was the family environment,” Isola said. “[Thomas] makes anybody — whether you’re a beginner or expert — feel like they’re welcome.”

The group has created more than 20 videos, ranging from “Maneater” by Nelly Furtado to “Happy” by Pharrell Williams, in addition to participating in Texas Revue, an annual student-run talent show.

Since Thomas’ graduation, the group’s activity has declined. They still produce new content, albeit at a slower pace. Isola, now an officer, said she thinks Thomas is the reason



Photo courtesy of James De'Rouen

Hip hop dance group #iGotSole officers Christiana Thomas, Wande Isola and Addis Gezahegn gather with alumni and members.

the group has survived.

“You don’t normally see that happen, but it [has] kept the organization grounded because we still have the same founder,” Isola said. “It’s a consistent face leading it [with]

the same energy, environment and spirit.”

Thomas said it’s difficult to balance #iGotSole and his life in San Antonio, but is committed to helping the group at UT while he still can.

“The reason I always find time [for #iGotSole is] because it’s something I created,” Thomas said. “It’s absolutely my passion. I feel so responsible for it and people keep coming back for more.”

BIOLOGY

New evidence indicates diatoms can control movement, ‘swim’

By Freya Preimesberger
@freyapreim

Scientists believed that diatoms, a type of one-celled plankton, were only able to sink through the water, but new research suggests that they have more control over their movements than previously thought.

Marine biologists have discovered that diatoms can rapidly change their buoyancies, in a motion similar to swimming, possibly in order to help in their food collection.

Diatoms lack cilia or flagella to create movement and scientists had previously assumed they were only capable of sinking. The research,

which was published Oct. 5 in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, shed light on how diatoms compete for food with swimming organisms.

Diatoms are a type of unicellular algae and phytoplankton that act as producers in oceanic ecosystems. They are swept up near the surface by ocean currents and turbulent water, where they use sunlight to conduct photosynthesis.

“They can be responsible for up to 40 percent of the productivity of the ocean — you could think of the fact that 40 percent of the seafood we eat is derived from these small diatoms,” said Brad Gemmell, first author of the study, assistant professor at

the University of South Florida and UT marine science alum. “They’re really the base of the food web.”

Unlike many other types of phytoplankton and marine organisms, diatoms don’t have body parts that allow them to swim. They obtain food by absorbing nutrients from ocean water, which is a very competitive process. Diatoms are relatively large and at a disadvantage for food absorption due to their bodies’ reduced surface areas.

Through modeling and calculations, researchers found that diatoms made sinking and stopping motions in very short time scales to control their

movements. Marine biologists had previously used bulk rates to represent diatom sinking in studies of oceanic ecosystems.

“What we have found is that they don’t have to sink continuously — they can stop and take up all the nutrients, and stop and drop a fraction of an inch and take up some more nutrients,” said Edward Buskey, UT professor of marine science and co-author of the study.

Diatoms require sunlight for photosynthesis, but parts of water near the ocean’s surface tend to be low in nutrients. This sinking and stopping movement may aid in obtaining food while they stay close to sunlight, Buskey said.

Although diatom sinking has long been of importance to ocean productivity and carbon and silicon cycles, scientists were not aware they were capable of changing their own movement. This provides a potential explanation for how they contend for food with smaller and swimming organisms.

The sinking and stopping is accomplished by regulating ion movement in and out of their vacuoles.

“They can change the composition of their vacuole to be less dense than seawater, like bags in a hot air balloon,” said Tracy Villareal, UT professor of marine science and last author

of the study. “They play these control games by ion pumps across membranes — all microscopic life has to regulate how these ions are balanced.”

Researchers’ next step is to see if this behavior can be observed over a wider range of diatom species, as well as how diatoms behave in water turbulence or at night.

“These organisms are found everywhere in the ocean, which covers 71 percent of the planet, so they’re really abundant and important in marine food webs,” Gemmell said. “What I think this does is it completely changes the way we think about these really important organisms.”

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SWIMMING & DIVING

Smith aims for success in final season

By Vanessa Le
@vanesssale

As a high schooler, Clark Smith didn't have to look very far when considering colleges. The child of two former Longhorn swimmers, Smith knew he wanted to keep his burnt orange legacy alive. Now Smith, a two-time defending national champion, is anxious to cap off his Texas tenure with even more success in his senior year. "It's like bread and butter right now," Smith said. "Training here is a dream and I really take it for granted."

While most 21-year-old college students spend their summers relaxing, Smith battled in the most important race of his career at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. He took home a gold medal with Team USA in the men's 4x200-meter freestyle relay. Texas head coach Eddie Reese — who coached for Singapore in Rio — said he was proud to watch Smith compete. "When Clark led off that relay in the heats and set his lifetime best, that was really important," Reese said. "I really enjoyed that." Smith dedicates most of his success to the people around him, especially his head coach. The Olympian credits Reese's coaching style for the preparation needed to win on the world's biggest stage.



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan file photo

Senior swimmer Clark Smith has two national championships and an Olympic gold medal, but he still wants to improve during his senior season. Smith was named the National Swimmer of the Week for his performance in last weekend's meet.

"He's been so successful and been around for so long," Smith said. "He just knows what he's doing. He's one of the greatest coaches in the country, if not the world." Smith also attributes his achievements to his teammates and family. Fellow Longhorns sophomore Townley Haas and senior Jack Conger also won gold medals for Team USA in Rio, while junior Joseph Schooling edged out

swimming legend Michael Phelps to reel in the gold for Singapore. Smith said the familiar faces helped him feel comfortable in Rio's foreign environment. He also looked to his mother Tori, who competed for Team USA at the 1984 Olympics. "Her advice to me would have been to just relax and treat it as any other meet," Smith said. "Because when you get there, it doesn't really feel like you're at the

Olympics ... It just feels like another meet. You don't really realize the whole world's watching you." Although most of Smith's career is adorned with accolades, he also tasted defeat during his junior year at Texas. After winning the NCAA championship title for the 500-yard freestyle in 2015, Smith was unable to make the final round of the same event last season. He said last year's shortcoming motivates him to

regain his championship form this year. "[I want to] do best times and try to get some pretty good performances at NCAAs," Smith said. "I had my best times midseason. [When] NCAAs came around I didn't necessarily perform, so to get back on top would be the goal." Smith can set his plans in motion during Texas' first home meet of the season against North Carolina State on Nov. 4.

VOLLEYBALL

Texas rides momentum into second half of Big 12 season

By Leah Vann
@Vanntastic_leah

The Longhorns kick off the second half of their Big 12 season with a rivalry matchup at home against Oklahoma on Wednesday. While Texas (16-2, 8-0 Big 12) remains undefeated in the conference, it hasn't been an easy road. "It's good that we're coming out with W's," head coach Jerrett Elliott said. "The matches we get from teams are so much different from other teams playing each other. They bring their 'A' game against us." The Longhorns' only sweep in conference play came against TCU. The team has already played five-set matches against Kansas State, Iowa State and Texas Tech. Oklahoma (12-9, 3-5 Big 12) has not fared well in the conference so far. The Sooners enter the matchup with a two-game losing streak following contests with Kansas State and Baylor. But they challenged the Longhorns in Norman on Sept. 28 in the 3-1 Texas victory. "You wanna keep getting tested and keep getting experience," Elliott

said. "You look at our team, we're playing a lot of freshmen out there, lot of players that haven't played and they're sophomores, and one player we're defining in a new position she hasn't played." Extra game experience has helped the Longhorn underclassmen transition into their big roles on the team. The outside hitters have remained top-ranked assets to the team as freshman Micaya White earned her fifth consecutive Big 12 Freshman of the Week honor and currently holds the third most kills in the Big 12. Junior Ebony Nwanebu and senior Paulina Prieto Cerame also claim high rankings in the conference. Nwanebu holds the third-highest hitting percentage and ranks No. 5 in kills. Prieto Cerame sits No. 7 in kills and number of points scored, just below White and Nwanebu. "Leadership has been really good, it's been growing," Elliott said. "When they have that trust in the older players they are able to look them in the eye when things run wide. It bodes well for our team." Texas' defense has also started to gel recently. Last week, freshman defensive specialist Claire Hahn showed she could hold

her own with junior libero Cat McCoy and senior setter Chloe Collins, recording 15 digs against Texas Tech — her first time in the double digits. McCoy led the team with 20 while Collins added 12. "We definitely are moving in that right direction [defensively]," Hahn said. "Because it definitely feels different out there than it did at the beginning." Sophomore middle blockers Morgan Johnson and Yaasmeen Bedart-Ghani have aided the Longhorns in recording double-digit blocks in their last two games, with 16 against Baylor and 12 against Texas Tech. Texas currently stands at No. 2 in the Big 12 in total blocks, with Johnson at No. 5 individually in total blocks. The Longhorns hope to continue their defensive momentum and jump start the second half of their conference season against the Sooners. "Coming off of Baylor, I think we grew as far as team chemistry and being together," Collins said. "I think going into the second half of conference, we see how we build on that and just being able to trust each other even more."

Freshman defensive specialist Claire Hahn has played a key role in the improved play of the Longhorn offense. Hahn tallied 15 digs in Texas' most recent victory over Texas Tech.



Joshua Guerra
Daily Texan Staff

FOOTBALL



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan file photo

Junior running back D'Onta Foreman has rushed for 100-plus yards in eight straight games and carries the Texas offense.

Foreman shines through recent offensive struggles

By Tyler Horka
@TexasTy95

Texas offensive coordinator Sterlin Gilbert has rejuvenated the Longhorns' offense in his first season on the job. Texas sits at No. 28 in the nation in points per game, up from its No. 83 ranking at the end of last season. Still, his offense goes up against a different beast this Saturday. Baylor ranks No. 9 nationally in points per game this season and finished last year at No. 1. Gilbert and junior running back D'Onta Foreman met with the media Tuesday to discuss the state of the team heading into week eight. **Keeping up with the Bears** Although Gilbert's offense averages 36.1 points per game, it's only scored 27 and 21 points in its last two games, respectively. Texas will need to score much more than that to stay in a shootout with Baylor, which averages 43.7 points per game. "They have a high powered offense," Gilbert said. "They're good on defense as well. You just look at the categories that they're around and under the top 15 in a lot of those. You know you gotta be on your A-game, you got to go out and be productive." The Bears rush for 282.8 yards per game, good enough to put them at No. 7 in the country. They also only give up 17.2 points per game on defense. But Gilbert said when it all comes down to it, his

offense must focus on not beating itself. "That's really been our focus going into this week again," Gilbert said. "Just focus on us. Get us better at our fundamentals, at our techniques, the things that we've asked our kids to do and the way we've asked them to do it." **Foreman shining while others struggle** Texas started the season 2-0, bristling with both confidence and optimism. They've gone 1-4 since, surrounded by nothing but a cloud of pessimism. But through it all, one player has remained successfully consistent. Foreman sits at No. 3 nationally in rushing yards per game, churning out 142.5 yards on the ground per matchup. He's gained 100-plus yards rushing in eight straight games going back to last season, trailing only Earl Campbell's streak of 11 such outings for best in school history. Former Texas players, running back Jamaal Charles and safety Earl Thomas, tweeted at Foreman after he put up another 124 yards against Kansas State Saturday. And he appreciated their vote of confidence. "I'm glad I'm grabbing some of those guys' attention," Foreman said. "I'm just trying to be the best I can be here. Just the acknowledgment that they gave me after the game, I was really happy about that. But it kind of would have been a lot better if we had won the game."

SIDELINE

NBA

	KNICKS
	CAVALIERS
88	117

MLB

	CUBS
	INDIANS
0	6

TODAY IN HISTORY

2000

The New York Yankees clinched their third straight World Series championship by defeating the New York Mets, 4-1. Derek Jeter was named the MVP of the series.

TOP TWEET

James Banks @32jbanks

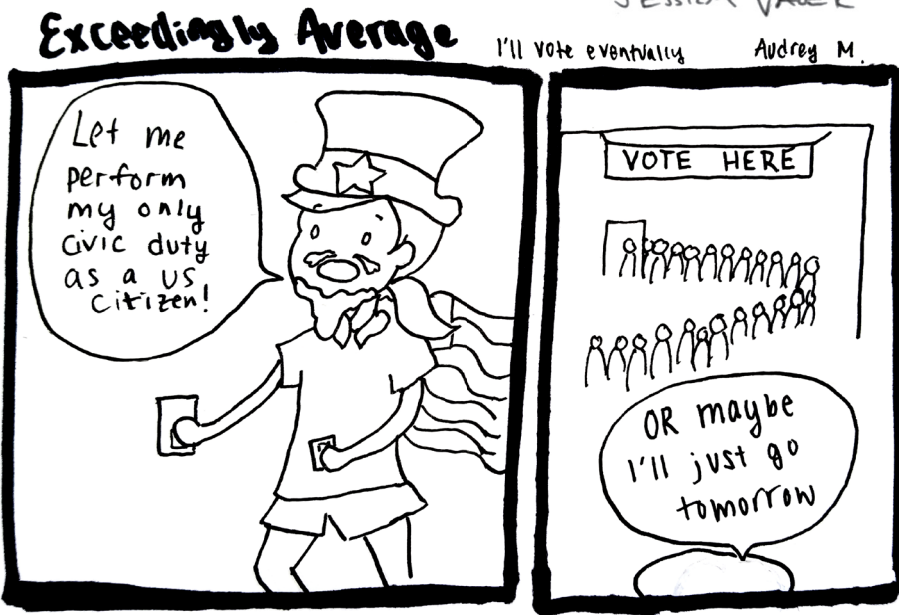
“Thinking about how blessed I am to be in this situation 🙏🏽🔥🏀”

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorn women fall at ITA Texas Regional Former Longhorn Breaunna Addison set a precedent for Texas with a win at the ITA Texas Regional event last year. But Texas was unable to build on that victory, falling at Baylor's Hurd Tennis Center in Waco this past weekend. No. 82 senior Neda Koprcina lost in the event finals to Baylor's No. 54 Blair Shankle in straight sets. However, Koprcina finished the event with five singles wins, including two over ranked opponents. Head coach Howard Joffe said he was proud of Koprcina regardless of the outcome. "The combination of Neda being a little overawed by being in her first big final, mixed with Blair's amazing tennis, made today a lopsided affair," Joffe said. "I am nonetheless super proud of Neda. This was an excellent tournament for her and will stand her in good stead for the more important moments that lie ahead this spring." The remainder of the team had a strong showing, but failed to advance deep into the tournament. In singles, No. 113 junior Dani Wagland fell in the round of 16 with a loss to Texas Tech's No. 56 Gabriela Talaba. Freshman Petra Granic also fell in the round of 16 with a loss to Shankle. In doubles, the tandem of Granic and Wagland lost to Texas A&M's Rutuja Bhosale and Rachel Pierson, 8-5. Texas continues fall tournament play with a trip to the Sun Devil Invitational in Tempe, Arizona from Nov. 4 through Nov. 6. —Abhishek Mukund

Daily Texan Comics

Get in the Halloweenie spirit!



LIVING WITH AWKWARD AMBER PERRY



Today's solution will appear here next issue

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1	4	5		6		9			
		9		5	4	8			
	1			8			6	7	
	3						8	5	
	8			5				9	
	5				1			6	
7		1	4					3	
	6				8	4			1

SUDOKUFORYOU

2	4	7	9	1	8	5	3	6
8	5	9	3	6	4	7	2	1
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6	8	5	7	3	9	4	1	2
4	7	3	5	2	1	6	8	9
1	9	2	4	8	6	3	5	7
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7	2	8	6	4	5	1	9	3
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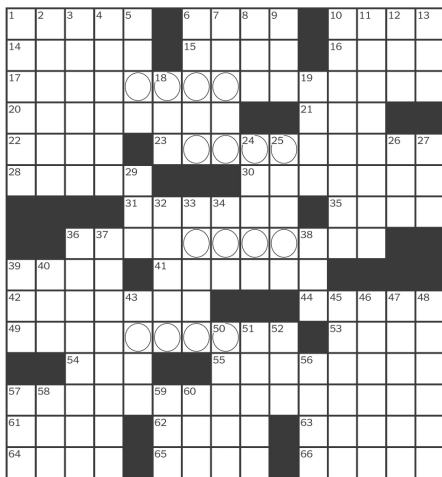
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0921

- ACROSS**
- 1 Common sans-serif font
 - 6 Citi Field predecessor
 - 10 Stop up ... or talk up
 - 14 Unit for a lorry
 - 15 News agency for a 57-Down
 - 16 Make less difficult
 - 17 Flying furry friend from Frostbite Falls, formally
 - 20 Mayonnaise, for one
 - 21 ___ choy
 - 22 Entry in an equine family tree
 - 23 New York sports fan's purchase
 - 28 Students may pass them
 - 30 Six-legged creature, to an entomologist
 - 31 Hazmat suit features
 - 35 Wine casks
 - 36 Rigoletto, for one
 - 39 Detach gradually (from)
 - 41 Diminishes by degrees
 - 42 Uhura portrayer Zoë
 - 44 Something boring
 - 49 1962 Francois Truffaut film classique
 - 53 "Bite tongue!"
 - 54 British record giant
 - 55 Trattoria shot
 - 57 Spring into action ... or an apt directive for 17-, 23-, 36- and 49-Across
 - 61 Go round and round
 - 62 Defaulter's auto, often
 - 63 Students may pass them
 - 64 "Ant-Man" star Paul
 - 65 "And I should care because ...?"
 - 66 Porterhouse cousin
- DOWN**
- 1 Not moving
 - 2 One sharing a Wi-Fi password, maybe
 - 3 Racks up, as debt
 - 4 Jewelry worn by Barbara Stanwyck in "Double Indemnity"
 - 5 Dregs
 - 6 Pony Express's Missouri terminus, informally
 - 7 Lacks
 - 8 Lawyer's title: Abbr.
 - 9 Sch. with a Phoenix campus
 - 10 Give a long, grandiloquent speech
 - 11 Buttercup family member with irregularly shaped blossoms
 - 12 "What's the ___?"
 - 13 It secures locks
 - 18 O'Brien who wrote "The Things They Carried," 1990
 - 19 Alpine goat
 - 24 Wall on a 33-Down
 - 25 "Full House" uncle
 - 26 Forever, seemingly
 - 27 QB rating factor: Abbr.
 - 29 Div. in a "Law & Order" spinoff
 - 32 Nobel Prize-winning daughter of the Curies

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACTS	PLASM	EDGY
SHIV	RUCHE	VALE
NINE	USUAL	IRON
ENGLISH	TRIFLE	
RASTAS	EDNA	WAS
EMIT	DIGEST	
MAY	BAKED	ALASKA
ALOT	ONO	BAER
PLUMPUDDING	YDS	
LESSON	TIOS	
EYE	OHMS	CLUMSY
NO	PIECE	OF CAKE
UNDO	NAOMI	KRIS
SIMP	GLOMS	EIRE
EXES	ESTEE	RATS



- PUZZLE BY MATTHEW SEWELL**
- 33 Fender model, familiarly
 - 34 Eye, in Avila
 - 36 Phone screening service
 - 37 Movie screening service
 - 38 Bag-screening org.
 - 39 Financial news inits.
 - 40 French quencher
 - 43 "___ sure you know ..."
 - 45 Colorist's task
 - 46 Took on, as a challenge
 - 47 19th-century author who wrote "Vanity working on a weak head, produces every sort of mischief"
 - 48 Michigan's ___ Pointe
 - 50 Cherokees, for example
 - 51 Playground comeback
 - 52 Dashboard fig.
 - 56 Tony-winning musical that begins and ends on Christmas Eve
 - 57 Kazakhstan, once: Abbr.
 - 58 Its speed is usually measured in GHz
 - 59 "My man"
 - 60 Albanian coin

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DATING

Latin-American professors bridge cultural divide



Editor's Note: In this recurring series, The Daily Texan tells the love stories of people on campus.

By Daisy Wang
@daisyxwang

They started as neighbors living in the Lower East Side of Manhattan with little connection to their Latin American roots — besides each other. Soon, their friendship blossomed into a romance neither could have planned.

Latin American sociology professor Javier Auyero and Spanish and Portuguese associate professor Gabriela Polit met in 1992 when they were both studying in New York City. While at a reception for Latin American students, the two began talking. From the start, they bonded over politics, books and their shared experience as foreigners caught in the hustle and bustle of the city.

"We had a lot of common interests that we didn't know about but were discovering," Auyero said. "We would spend hours in a coffee shop just talking about a book we were reading."

Auyero is from Argentina, and Polit is a native of Quito, Ecuador. Though they both came from countries in Latin America, they faced cultural differences from nuances in the way they spoke to differing tastes in music and liquor.

"For an Argentine and an Ecuadorian to come together is not easy — geographically and culturally speaking," Polit said. "But he has learned to dance a



Emmanuel Briseño | Daily Texan Staff

Latin American sociology professor Javier Auyero and Spanish and Portuguese associate professor Gabriela Polit have been married for the past 18 years. The couple met in New York and bonded over the cultural differences they experienced from being foreigners.

little now, and I'm learning to speak like an Argentine. We've rubbed off on each other."

When they first met, Polit was looking for a cheaper place to stay and Auyero helped her find a space — one conveniently located next to his. The duo took to the streets for their first unofficial "date," walking around their neighborhood, which was surrounded by crack houses and located near the bases of the Twin Towers.

Both Polit and Auyero, who had come from small towns, had trouble

adjusting to eclectic city life. In the '90s, it was difficult for them to communicate with family members back home. Auyero recalls having to send faxes and only being able to make long-distance calls every two weeks due to the high cost. They were also constantly overwhelmed by the chaotic nature of New York and felt increasingly lonely from being away from home. Though dating was never their main priority, it happened naturally in the isolated environment in which they found themselves.

After dating for six years, the couple had an abrupt marriage ceremony in 1998. On the Thursday night before their ceremony, Polit and Auyero called their friends to let them know, and a mutual friend from Washington D.C. flew down to be their witness.

"All my friends were screaming, asking what we were doing, but it was really nothing," Polit said. "Nothing was changing except for a few signed papers."

On the day of their ceremony, the couple and their

friends rode the subway to the courthouse. Instead of buying a new dress, Polit wore a red one already in her closet. Once everything was legalized, the group drank champagne from cardboard glasses and ventured down to Little Italy.

Three years later, they had the first of their two sons and created a home where their cultures have mixed together.

Now, Polit and Auyero plan to work together for the first time on the introduction of a book. Auyero said

collaborating isn't an issue because their personal and professional lives are already so intertwined.

After all the years the two have spent exploring New York City and kickstarting their careers together, it's hard to imagine their relationship was set in motion with just an initial glance.

"He had a beard and lots of hair, and I always had crushes on good looking guys like that," Polit said. "I saw him from a distance and thought, 'Oops another one of these in my life.'"

CAMPUS

Student breaks "Silence", talks new self-published sci-fi novel

By Acacia Coronado
@acaciatree18

Siri Magadi's freshman year of high school involved immortals, hybrid species and a paranormal romance.

When biology sophomore Magadi started high school, she was a 13-year-old girl in love with reading. But, she was never fully satisfied with the books she read so she decided to write her own. Magadi is currently working on the sequel to her action-packed science-fiction romance, "Facing Silence." In her first novel, Ali, the main character and Magadi's supernatural alter ego, falls in love with a brooding, attractive, powerful being, Ashton, and must endure the ordinary struggles of being a teenager while also fighting villains to keep her loved ones from harm.

"It was all so new because I had never written anything at this scale before," Magadi said. "I started writing this idea because every TV show and every book I read, it never leaves you with an ending that you are satisfied with. Once I had written something of my own I just kept adding to it and adding to it and when I realized I had a couple hundred pages, I thought, 'This isn't a piece, this is a book, I should probably do something with this.'"

When Magadi, a self-proclaimed romantic, was deciding how to write her first novel, she envisioned her perfect romance including science fiction and action elements.

"It would not be just a romance, it would be something out of this world,"



Juan Figueroa | Daily Texan Staff

Biology sophomore Siri Magadi is near completion of her sequel to her science fiction novel "Facing Silence." Magadi started writing in high school and has continued into college.

Magadi said. "I thought, 'What if I had superpowers? What if I was some magical mystical being?' and the curious side of me was like, 'What if everything I had ever known was a lie? What if my life was backwards? What if I was not even me?'"

Magadi said she was able to balance her school work and writing because writing is such a profound part of her life. Some of her characters and ideas are even inspired by her school work, such as the knowledge she learned from her genetics class which she used to create characters such as were-lions.

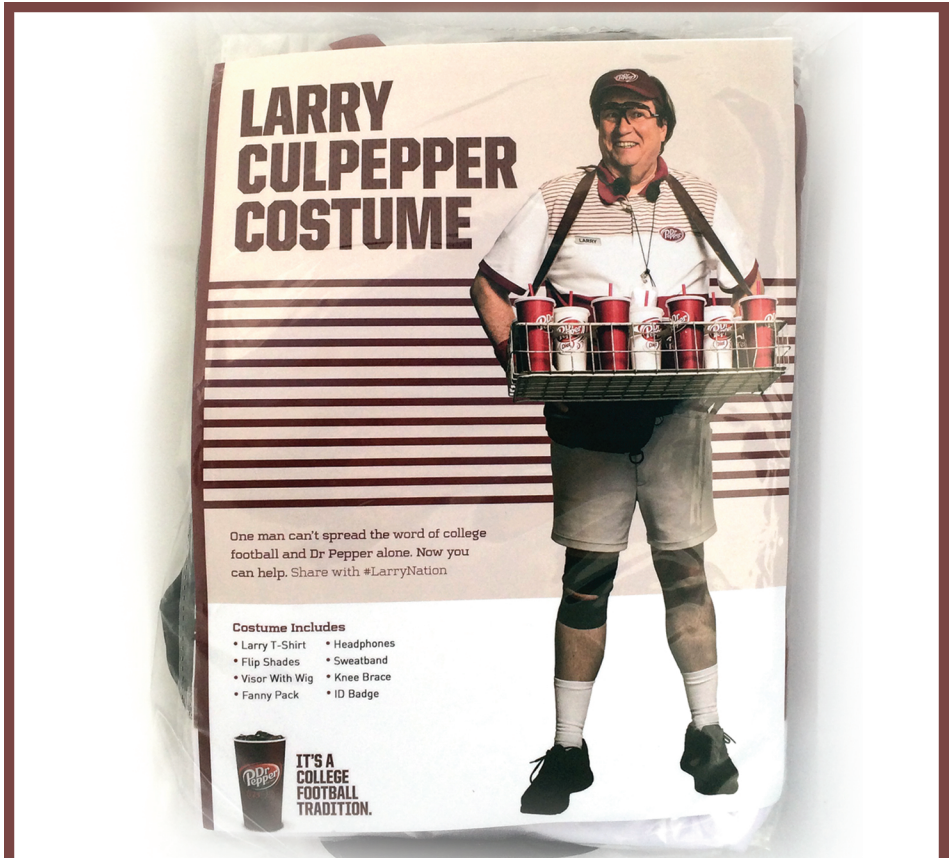
"All that creativity comes from science originally," Magadi said. "When you have a scientific mind you can apply it to all other aspects of your life. On Friday nights, I stay in and I don't go places and I write. I use writing as a sigh of relief."

Sanajana Balachandran, Magadi's friend who helped support her throughout her writing, was the inspiration for one of Magadi's characters.

"Even though her genre is supernatural, she still manages to bring a very realistic vibe to her books," Balachandran said. "Her characters go through issues that the everyday boy and girl go through and so you are able to feel like you are a part of that friendship. If you read the books you will be able to immediately see what she was feeling when she was writing a particular scene."

Magadi said her sequel is coming along well and is near completion. For her new book she is trying to stay consistent with many of the ideas presented in the first, yet also add new elements that she hopes will make her characters more relatable.

"[I want there to be] maturity in the relationship. It's not just about having a happily ever after, it's not the ideal kind of life that you envision in high school," Magadi said. "In college, there is always ups and downs: the equivalent of a bad midterm of a bad exam is a fight with a villain, it's the same feeling of success or failure."



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